

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A personal watercraft comprising:
 - a hull, the hulla-shell comprising a transom;
 - a deck disposed on the hull;
 - a straddle seat disposed on the deck;
 - handlebars mounted on the deck forward of the seat for steering the personal watercraft;
 - a first compartment defined between the hull and the deck;
 - a tunnel defined by the hullshell, the tunnel extending forwardly from the transom, the tunnel being defined laterally by the hullshell, the tunnel having at least an open bottom and rear,
 - a ride plate mounted to the hullshell at the bottom of the tunnel;
 - the tunnel and the ride plate defining a second compartment;
 - an internal combustion engine supported by the ride plate and disposed in the second compartment and below the seat tunnel; and
 - a jet pump operatively connected to the internal combustion engine, supported by the ride plate, and disposed in the second compartmenttunnel.
2. **(Currently Amended)** The personal watercraft of claim 1, wherein the at least one of the hull and the deckshell defines a top of the tunnel.
3. **(Currently Amended)** The personal watercraft of claim 1, wherein the engine is accessible installed in the watercraft from below.
4. **(Currently Amended)** The personal watercraft of claim 1, wherein the engine is accessible installed in the watercraft from the rear of the watercraft.
5. **(Currently Amended)** The personal watercraft of claim 1, wherein the ride plate forms a continuous surface with an underwater portion of the hullshell.
6. **(Currently Amended)** The personal watercraft of claim 1, wherein the second compartmenttunnel is sealed off from the first compartmentan interior of the shell.
7. **(Currently Amended)** The personal watercraft of claim 1, wherein the ride plate is flexibly mounted to the hullshell.

8. **(Currently Amended)** The personal watercraft of claim 1, further comprising one of a battery, engine electronics, and a fuel tank disposed in the first compartment~~the shell~~, wherein the one of a battery, engine electronics, and fuel tank is operatively connected to the engine.
9. **(Currently Amended)** The personal watercraft of claim 1, further comprising an airbox disposed in the first compartment~~the shell~~, wherein the airbox operatively connects to the engine.
10. **(Currently Amended)** The personal watercraft of claim 1, wherein the engine comprises an engine oil pan mounted to the ride plate.
11. **(Currently Amended)** The personal watercraft of claim 1, wherein the engine comprises an engine oil pan integrally formed with the ride plate.
12. **(Currently Amended)** The personal watercraft of claim 1, further comprising a gearing and a clutch operatively disposed between the engine and the jet pump.
13. **(Currently Amended)** The personal watercraft of claim 1, wherein the engine is inclined about its longitudinal axis such that the engine is disposed at an angle with respect to a vertical axis.
14. **(Currently Amended)** The personal watercraft of claim 1, wherein the engine is disposed above the jet pump, wherein the engine includes a crankshaft, wherein the jet pump includes a driveshaft, and wherein the driveshaft and the crankshaft occupy overlapping longitudinal positions on the watercraft.
15. **(Currently Amended)** The personal watercraft of claim 1, wherein the engine includes a crankshaft and the jet pump includes a driveshaft, and wherein the crankshaft and driveshaft are parallel to each other.
16. **(Currently Amended)** The personal watercraft of claim 1, wherein the engine comprises a crankcase that is integrally formed with the ride plate.
17. **(Currently Amended)** The personal watercraft of claim 1, wherein the jet pump comprises an intake area that is at least partially integrally formed with the ride plate.
18. **(Currently Amended)** The personal watercraft of claim 1, wherein the jet pump comprises an intake area, and the engine comprises a crankcase that is at least partially integrally formed with the intake area.

19. **(Currently Amended)** The personal watercraft of claim 1, wherein the engine comprises a crankcase, and the jet pump comprises a driveshaft that is supported by the crankcase.